

Glastonbury Climate Emergency Advisory Committee Report on Activities 2019-2021

- Following Glastonbury Town Council's declaration of Climate Emergency, a group comprising of town councillors and individuals first met in July 2019 to discuss, initiate and support local projects that help to reduce CO2 emissions, protect the environment and create a more climate resilient community.
- In September 2019 we held an Open Day with stalls from local groups such as Somerset Waste Partnership, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Glastonbury Growers Group, Sunlit Solar, Avalon Community Energy, Friends of the Earth, Plastic Free, and Earth Protectors. There were speakers on some of the topics, including Ecocide (a legal challenge to the destruction of flora/fauna and biodiversity; www.stopecocide.earth). As a result Glastonbury Town Council declared itself an Earth Protector Town. A leaflet was distributed with ideas on how people can change to a more sustainable lifestyle, with links to useful contacts.
- In October 2019 & January 2020 we organised People's Assemblies for residents to identify and agree priority projects. Around 100 attended each. In the morning speakers presented a range of topics including: Anna Francis, Frome Resilience Officer, spoke on what has been achieved in Frome; Sonya Bedford showed how Wedmore became energy self-sufficient through installation of a solar park and panels on community owned buildings, and Shelly Easton, Somerset Wildlife Trust Climate Adaptation Manager, on how sea level rise will affect the county. In the afternoon small groups focussed on 3 chosen topics: Food, Transport & Environment. Two projects for each of those areas were voted for by everyone present and people have started to put them into action. A People's Action Group due in March 2020, to further the identified projects, was cancelled due to the onset of pandemic. We intend to host more People's Assemblies when possible, perhaps using online technology.
- Despite lockdown we have continued to meet via Zoom on a monthly basis from June 2020. In winter, a time when everything seems at standstill, all kinds of activity continues below the surface, and so it was with CEAC. We thought progress had ceased, but a number of people have been quietly buzzing away and projects have manifested or are in the pipeline.
- The most ambitious project is the Glastonbury Town Deal Fund, which was invited to apply for £24.5 million from a Government fund for towns around the country. To have an opportunity for such major investment at a time of hardship, will be transformative for Glastonbury, if approved. Various proposals were put forward, many of which were on our wish list and topics of discussion. The major project we proposed was a £3 million renewable energy development in the Beckery area of town, which will not only generate energy for the buildings there, but also EV charging points for a proposed park and ride. It has the potential to store energy and create income to further invest in community projects.
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/glastotowndeal>
- The town was awarded an initial £500,000 for 5 projects, one of which was improving the town centre. We proposed cycle racks, left luggage lockers, an electronic town noticeboard, and two refill water fountains in the town centre, all of which are in process of installation. Other suggestions, eg. community bikes, EV charging points, and an electric town bus, are awaiting Government approval for the main bulk of the funding.

- One of our priorities was to appoint a part-time climate resilience officer. Melissa Taylor took up the post in January and is working with the town council on a number of projects, firstly to make council buildings, including the Town Hall, carbon neutral by replacing its 30 year old boiler with renewable energy sources. She will be engaging with the community in the coming future and has much experience and expertise to offer.
- The community fridge (one of the projects chosen by the People's Assembly) is a very visible result. Little did we know how much it would be needed as lockdown and deprivation hit local residents. Gina Ty Warton organised it with our support and has a growing team of volunteers cleaning and collecting supermarket leftovers on a daily basis. They also offer weekly hot meals and food boxes to anyone who needs it.
- Members have come and gone during the two years and reflect a range of interests from Friends of the Earth, Extinction Rebellion, Conservation groups, local food growers and business people, as well as town and district councillors.
- Members are currently involved with local group activities and projects: traffic slowing, tree planting, rewilding verges, volunteer litter-picking has gathered momentum with local residents, and cycle-path clearing volunteers worked through lockdown and continue.

Projects in process or on our wish list:

- Zero carbon Homes
- Wind Turbines
- Anaerobic Digester
- Bulk Solar Panel Scheme – for discounted residential installation of PVs.
- Air and Ground Source Heat Pump – for public, business and residential buildings
- EV Charging Points – on the Town Deal list
- Electric Bus – on the Town Deal list
- Community bikes - on the Town Deal List
- Cargo Bikes – for local deliveries
- Segregated Recycling Bins in town centre
- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods – Sunday High Street closure, weight limit, lower speed limit (SCC acting on this).
- Park & Ride scheme for visitors – on the Town Deal list
- Mapping transport use
- Air pollution levels research – some data has been gathered.
- Reduction of Plastic usage – progress made with hospitality outlets has reversed, due to Covid restrictions.
- Eliminating Glyphosate use, slug pellets, etc
- Rewilding, tree & hedge planting, insect friendly wildflower planting on verges - Open Gardens Events
- Land for growing food – health, education
- Increased & coordinated local food production, including community food growing (CSA)
- Community Kitchen – for shared use and education

People who have been involved: Laiqa Brown (started the group), Serena Roney-Dougal, Laura Sorensen, Rachael Clyne, Ailsa Masterton, Claire Crumpton, Christine Prior, Lindsay Macdougall, Mike Smyth, Brian Outten, Jon Cousins, Susannah Clemence, Bruce Garrard, Tom Ronan, Denise Michell (sadly deceased).